DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

RDS☐or EDS☐EXT. DATE _____ 1378
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 GEORGETOWN 4138

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ACTION L-03
INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 E-02 SSO-00
FBIE-00 /028 W
----------050036 0714Z9Z /47

O 0712Z1Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5358
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 4138
E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO), GY
SUBJ: EMBASSY STAFFING
REF: STATE 307012

1. EMBASSY WAS VERY PLEASED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO DETAIL A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE LEGAL ADVISER TO GEORGETOWN ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT. HE HAS ALREADY BEEN OF INESTIMABLE HELP IN ADDRESSING THE MANY LEGAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND THE RELATED INCIDENT OF MASS MURDERS/SUICIDES AT JONESTOWN, MANY OF WHICH ARE UNIQUE IN AMERICAN CONSULAR EXPERIENCE.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE WE HAVE JUST NOW BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND ENGAGE LOCAL LEGAL COUNSEL TO ASSIST IN THE DISCHARGE OF OUR CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS PEOPLTS TEMPLE AND INDIVIDUALS' ESTATES. THE FBI TECHNICAL TEAM IS STILL PROCEEDING IN ITS EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE, INCLUDING THAT WHICH HAS BEEN GATHERED BY THE GOG POLICE, AS WELL AS THE MATERIAL REMOVED FROM GEORGETOWN BY OUR CONSULS. SO FAR THIS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IS PROCEEDING WELL. HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO REACH EVEN A PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING WITHTHE GOG REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF PEOPLES TEMPLE PROPERTY IN GUYANA.
(FYI: AMBASSADOR IS TAKING MR. FORTUNE TO PAY

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COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER JUSTICE MORNING DEC. 7.)

3. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S LAWYER WHO HAS BEEN DETAILED HERE IS ABLE TO BRIEF AND DIRECT THE WORK, AT LEAST IN ITS PRELIMINARY STAGES, OF THE LOCAL LAWYER WHO HAS BEEN RETAINED. IT IS ALSO VERY USEFUL TO HAVE HIS ADVICE ON THE EMBASSY'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND OTHER U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS IT PERTAINS TO EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE WHICH MAY AT THE SAME TIME BE PART OF THE COLLECTIVE ESTATE OR INDIVIDUAL ESTATES CREATED BY THE JONESTOWN DISASTER.

4. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT MR. FORTUNE BE AVAILABLE TO US FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TEN DAYS, SUCH TIME TO INCLUDE A BRIEF TRIP TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE REST OF THE LEGAL STAFF AS WELL AS ARA AND SCA.

SHEAFFFP JEANNE M
72 GEORGETOWN 4138

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5. IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL TPAT AS MUCH CARE AS POSSIBLE BE TAKEN AT THIS EARLY CRITICAL STAGE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY FROM POSSIELE CRITICISM IN THE FUTURE OF THE WAY IN WEICH OUR CONSULAR AND RELATED OBLIGATIONS HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED.

BURKE

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